

Public Comments

Fall Turkey

Mark Malone

Pierre SD

Position: oppose

Comment:

Please reconsider the fall turkey season, specifically in the Black Hills. As an avid turkey hunter, the populations have been in constant decline for many years now and it is getting harder and harder to find birds to hunt. 15 years ago it wasn't uncommon for me to put a half dozen flocks to bed at night. This past opening morning, I had two found...one of which was on private land. The next night, we found one bird. This has become quite common and just proves that the numbers are so low that it is even tough for a seasoned veteran to find birds, much less an average father trying to find birds to take his kid on a mentored hunt.

I also have a good friend that has killed and guided to over a dozen gobbler kills this spring. He is of the same opinion about the population....it's way down. (I am not going to provide any testimony from him, just trying to give some information from more than one avid spring turkey hunter).

I understand that the fall season in the hills can be justified by the fact that many of the birds might not make it through the winter and might as well add to hunter opportunity in the fall (paraphrasing from former head SDGFP biologist), but even if a percentage of those hens made it through the winter, that allows those hens the opportunity to raise an extra brood, which creates that much more opportunity in future spring seasons.

Again, please help re-establish a stronger turkey population in the Black Hills and eliminate the fall season until the population can more easily support it.

Alfred Rude

Lead SD

Position: other

Comment:

I certainly hope that the commission opens the fall turkey season for the entire Black Hills. It has been disappointing the last couple years that hunting has been primarily south of Custer.

Adam Golay

Sioux Falls SD

Position: other

Comment:

Change the start date to the fall turkey season to start the same day as antelope season. That way antelope hunters that live in the eastern part of the state have an incentive to buy a fall turkey tag & they can combine that into 1 trip since it's 400-500 miles to drive for a Sioux Falls resident to antelope hunt. It use to start Oct 1st so I don't know what the reason was for moving it back to Nov 1st.

John Janecke

Winner SD

Position: other

Comment:

I can understand INCREASING the number of permits issued, but am totally at a loss as to closing Tripp County to turkey hunting. I have a spring turkey permit for Tripp County and am seeing and hearing many turkeys, both Toms and hens.

I hunt BOTH public and private ground and in both places there are MANY turkeys. I feel that Tripp County should remain OPEN to fall turkey hunting based on the many turkeys that are available, even before the nesting season is complete.

Compared to previous years when I was in the field, although rarely for turkey hunting, I am still observing more birds than I have seen or crossed paths with previously.

Based on these facts, I see no logical reason to close Tripp County to fall turkey hunting.

Lost License Replacement

Robert Rauenhorst

Chamberlain SD

Position: support

Comment:

I applaud this decision and hope everyone supports it. There should no be a penalty for a simple mistake.

Other

Steve Gates

Mitchell SD

Position: other

Comment:

When are the comfort stations going to be open at the state parks? It doesn't make sense to limit people to vault toilets with no water or soap. This causes a bottle neck for everyone without access to a toilet and causes unsanitary conditions.

Timothy Hurlbert

Hermosa SD

Position: other

Comment:

I support the the move to a 25 mph raise in boat speed on Deerfield Lake as it takes to long to cross the lake at the current 5 mph. I am a disabled vet unable to walk . I do believe any higher speeds would be a problem. Even a 10 or 15 Mph would be ok but generally a boat will not plane and creates more wake at those speeds.

River Otter Season

Todd Chamley

Trent SD

Position: support

Comment:

Thank you commissioners for allowing us the opportunity to harvest some of these beautiful creatures. Having lived, fished, trapped, and hunted my for as long as I can remember of my forty five years, within one mile of the Big Sioux river I assure you I am grateful and excited! It is hopefully a resource that we can continue to harvest with an increase in allotted tags annually as more information is gathered. Spending roughly 200+ days a year on or in this watershed it is very evident that they are flourishing. Their isn't a private fish pond or body of water around here that doesn't feel the effects of their rapidly spreading population.

John Hopple

Black Hawk SD

Position: support

Comment:

Hello Secretary Helper, Chairman Jensen and Commissioners. The South Dakota Trappers Association strongly supports this proposal. The story of the river otter is a success story. The otters have reached a level where reasonable harvest limits should be enacted. In addition to creating an interest in trapping (recruitment item) the science gathered from the body turn in requirement will prove to be vital to the future continued success of the otter. A much more diverse collection of information from different areas of the state will only enhance the information flow for GFP Biologists. Yes, the SDTA supports this proposal.